

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01222 140917Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 PM-05 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 OMB-01
/073 W

-----049793 150221Z /12

R 130845Z JUN 78
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6318
INFO USDOC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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ATHENS FOR RTDO

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ETRD, IZ
SUBJ: EAA REGULATIONS: FONMIN OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON IRAQI BOYCOTT
POLICY

REF (A) BAGHDAD 898, (B) BAGHDAD 1130

1. SUMMARY. MFA BOYCOTT OFFICIAL DENIES RUMORS THAT IRAQ
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WILL CUT OFF TRADE WITH U.S. WHEN EAA GOES FULLY INTO
EFFECT JUNE 22 AND SAYS THAT HE BELIEVES BOYCOTT PROBLEMS
CAN BE WORKED OUT IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

2. ON JUNE 10, FOREIGN MINISTRY BOYCOTT DIRECTOR GENERAL
ABDUL HAMEED DENIED TO USINT OFFICERS RUMORS THAT GOI
INTENDS TO END ALL TRADE WITH THE U.S. WHEN EAA

REGULATIONS COME FULLY INTO EFFECT JUNE 22. HE ALSO DENIED CONTRARY REPORT IN MIDDLE EAST NEWSLETTER (MAY 5, 1978) THAT SADDAM HUSSEIN HAS DECIDED TO OPEN THE WAY TO THE RAPID EXPANSION OF U.S.-IRAQI TRADE BY INSTRUCTING OFFICIALS TO EMPLOY THE BEST AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGY WHATEVER THE IDEOLOGICAL STRIPE OF THE COMPANY'S HOME COUNTRY. SAYING THAT THERE WAS MORE TRUTH IN THE LATTER THAN IN THE FORMER, HE NOTED THAT THE GOI HAD ALREADY GRANTED BOYCOTT EXCEPTIONS FOR CERTAIN GOODS SUCH AS MEDICINES, SPARE PARTS FOR U.S.-MADE EQUIPMENT AND ITEMS NECESSARY FOR MAJOR PROJECTS UNDERWAY. IN REGARD TO THE REQUIREMENT FOR NEGATIVE CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN, HE SAID THAT THE GOI WAS CONSIDERING CHANGES BUT HE WAS NOT AT LIBERTY TO DISCUSS THEM.

3. EMPHASIZING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING PERSONALLY BECAUSE HE "WAS NOT CONCERNED WITH POLITICAL AFFAIRS", HE SAID THAT RESTORATION OF NORMAL POLITICAL RELATIONS WOULD PRODUCE A LARGE INCREASE IN TRADE. HE OBSERVED THAT ALTHOUGH IRAQ DID NOT NEED THE MOST ADVANCED AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY IN ALL FIELDS, IT DID NEED THE SPECIAL TECHNOLOGY THAT THE U.S. CAN PROVIDE IN CERTAIN AREAS, PARTICULARLY IN THE AGRICULTURAL AND PETROLEUM SECTORS, HE COMMENTED THAT BOYCOTT REASONS CAUSED A DROP IN TRADE IN 1977 BUT ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT THESE PROBLEMS COULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BE SORTED OUT IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

4. THOUGH HE KNEW OF NO IMMINENT MEETING OF THE ARAB LEAGUE BOYCOTT COMMISSIONERS, HE SAID HE COULD RECEIVE NOTIFICATION AT ANY TIME AND PRESSED FOR DEFINITIVE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS REGARDING SHIPPING DOCUMENTATION AND LETTERS OF CREDIT (SEE REFS A AND B). HE HOPED USG WOULD PROVIDE ARABIC TRANSLATION OF EAA AND ITS REGULATIONS WHICH, HE CLAIMED, U.S. OFFICIALS HAD PROMISED TO CENTRAL BOYCOTT OFFICE IN DAMASCUS. PECK

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: ETRD, IZ
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